

It was just another normal day, much like any other. Liam Connor didn't know it would be the last normal day of his life.

Liam was fifteen. He was a bright boy, never top in his class at anything, but always up there. He fitted in. He had lots of friends. He had parents he admired, and he split his time between boarding school and living with his mother and father in their comfortable town house on the outskirts of Norwich. His life could hardly have been more settled.

Liam Connor had been living a lie. Only ... it turned out that it was a lie no-one had thought to let him in on.

Liam Connor was about to find this out.

Liam jumped out of the train as soon as the door would open. It was a Friday evening in the middle of May and normally he would be at school over the weekend. Today, though, they'd granted him an exit, special permission to leave early and head for home. His father was back from his travels, and Liam and his parents were going to spend the weekend together.

Liam left the station with his bag over his shoulder and crossed onto Riverside Road. A few minutes later he was on New Chapel Road, which cut across one corner of the Heath. Almost home.

He was hot from the walk, and from carrying his weekend bag in the May sunshine. It was only a couple of weeks since he'd last been home, but then it had just been him and Mum. His father worked for the Government and travelled a lot. Ministry of Defence, Liam thought, although he wasn't sure. One time when he'd asked, his dad had just given one of his winning smiles and shaken his head. "Sorry, Liam. I can't tell you what I do. Top secret. If I told you I'd have to kill you..." Liam liked to think that was true, but he suspected his father did something altogether un-glamorous: more carpet fitter or catering consultant than 007.

Liam paused, and let his bag slide from his shoulder, catching the strap in one hand as it slithered down his arm. He rolled his shoulders, wondering why he'd packed so much just for a weekend.

The house looked just the same as it always did. Detached, set back from the road, slightly shielded from view by three silvery eucalyptus trees. There was no sign of anybody at home, no car in the drive. It was probably in the garage, he thought, although Mum hardly ever bothered to park it in there.

He crunched a diagonal route across the drive, then crossed the small patch of front lawn.

The front door was open a short way, as if it had been left for him, or as if someone had casually forgotten to close it upon leaving. He pushed on it gently and it was at that moment that he started to understand that something was very seriously wrong.

"ERASED" by Nick Gifford

I

A. Identify the text Type and justify.

B.1. Scan the text and say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Quote from the text to support your answer.

1.1 There was nothing different about this day but that was soon going to change. _____

1.2 Liam was an outsider and a bad student in his school. _____

1.3 He was living a comfortable life. _____

1.4 What he didn't know but was about to discover was that nothing of this was real. _____

B.2. Complete the following sentences according to the text. Use your own words as far as possible!

2.1 Unlike every Friday evening in the middle of May, _____

2.2 There was neither a sign of anybody being at home, _____

C. Read the text (lines 17 to 27) and find synonyms/antonyms for these words/expressions!

GIVEN WORD	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
arrived at		1-
practically	2-	
transporting	3-	
at that time	4-	
a lie		5-

II

A. Punctuate the following text. Notice that the capital letters have been maintained to help you decide which punctuation mark to use.

NICK GIFFORD says...

«This was a tough one to write, and I was especially nervous when I sent it to my editor at Puffin. What would she think

I knew Id got it right when she e mailed me YOU ARE SERIOUSLY MESSING WITH MY HEAD And you look such a nice fresh faced young man who could guess what tortured evils lurk beneath

Heh heh heh...»

B. Fill in the gaps with words from the box. Don't forget to mention what type of word is missing!

of	and	paused	
angrily	smells	what	classical

He _____ (1) on the doorstep. A blackbird clacked _____ (2) from the fence. A car went slowly past, _____ (3) music playing softly on the stereo. Somewhere, he heard the whine _____ (4) a distant lawnmower.

He didn't know _____ (5) it was, but he knew that something was wrong. Despite all the normal sounds and _____ (6), despite the fact that nothing was obviously amiss, his heart raced _____ (7) sweat broke out across his brow.

C.1. Reach, make and take are used in combination with hundreds of words. Fill in the table below by ticking the correct column.

MAKE	TAKE	REACH	
			1. a compromise
			2. a suggestion
			3. my advice
			4. a point
			5. a very high level

C.2. Complete the following sentences with the phrases in the table.

- 2.1 Unemployment among young people _____ last year.
- 2.2 After hours of negotiation workers and management _____.
- 2.3 May I _____ ? Why don't you try reaching him over the phone?
- 2.4 _____ ! Don't stay up so late when you have an exam the next morning!
- 2.5 Ok, ok!! You _____ ! You can stay out till 2am but no minute longer!

D. Look at the word family boxes and fill in the chart with the missing words.

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
	to surprise		
conclusion			
		violent	
			silently

E. Fill in the gaps with correct PREPOSITIONS

Suddenly it was just a normal day again. Back home (1)_____ the weekend. His bed, his World Cup football chart, the crystal radio set he had built (2)_____ Christmas, his science-fiction books. The window was open (3)_____ the first catch: his mother must have been airing the room ahead (4)_____ his return.

Liam shut the door (5)_____ his back and sat on the bed, pulling his knees up (6)_____ his chest, suddenly shaking quite uncontrollably. He jammed his eyes tightly shut and tensed his whole body, struggling to control the tremors. He felt sick and he felt scared.

What had happened here? Where were Mum and Dad?

III

Analyse the following fact file and write a biography.

TAYLOR SWIFT: F A C T F I L E

Birth Name: Taylor Alison Swift

Birth Date: December 13, 1989

Birth Place: Reading, Pennsylvania, USA

Height: 5' 11"

Sex: Female

Nationality: American

Profession: country singer, song-writer,

Education: Aaron Academy, Hendersonville, Tennessee
(graduation: July 2008)

Relationship: Jake Gyllenhaal (actor; dating since November 2010),
Joe Jonas (The Jonas Brothers; dated in 2008)

Father: Scott Swift (a stock broker)

Mother: Andrea Swift (a homemaker)

Brother: Austin Swift (younger)

Carreer: **2006:** Debut single 'Tim McGraw' – top ten hit (country charts)- 2.5 million copies
More popular singles : "Our Song," "Teardrops on My Guitar," "Picture to Burn," "Should've Said No"

2007: Songwriter/Artist of the Year award (Nashville Songwriters Association International)

2008: nomination : Best New Artist in the 2008 Grammy Awards (youngest performer in history)

November 2008: released album, 'Fearless' : singles "Love Story", "You Belong With Me" - top of the Billboard charts - various awards + 2010 Grammy for Album of the Year= best-selling album / **2009**

2010 acting debut : film **Valentine's Day**

